



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

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May 05, 2015

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**APPROVE THE REVISED COMPETITIVE GRANT FUNDS
PROJECT NAME, PROJECT DESCRIPTION, AND PROJECT LOCATION
FOR THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
(FIFTH DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will revise the name, description, and location of a Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority at-risk youth facility project.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed Mentryville-Johnson Park At-Risk Youth Facility Project categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the project.
2. Approve changes in the project name, project description, and project location of the previously-approved East Canyon At-Risk Youth Vocational Training Center Project to the proposed Mentryville-Johnson Park At-Risk Youth Facility Project

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to change the project name, project description, and project location of the East Canyon At-Risk Youth Vocational Training Center Project previously approved by the Board to the proposed Mentryville-Johnson Park At-Risk Youth Facility Project.

On November 17, 1998, the Board awarded \$250,000 in Competitive Grant Funds, available to the

Fifth Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992 (1992 Proposition), to MRCA, for the East Canyon At-Risk Youth Vocational Training Center Project, which consisted of construction and renovation of an existing facility in East Canyon within larger, MRCA owned Santa Clarita Woodlands Park. The project also included development of a vocational training and visitor center, native tree nursery, and park maintenance center for at-risk youth, and the planning costs have been incurred in the original project. However, the old motel at East Canyon intended for renovation and reuse as a training facility was damaged by fire. Exploration was done to save the motel at East Canyon, but it was determined that the renovation and reuse is not feasible.

As a result, the existing agreement must be amended, and MRCA has requested a change of project name, project description, and project location. The proposed new project name is the Mentryville-Johnson Park At-Risk Youth Facility Project (Project). The proposed Project will now consist of renovation of existing facilities and construction of an overnight camping facility for vocational training, recreation, and education of at-risk youth in the Mentryville-Johnson Park area within the larger, MRCA-owned Santa Clarita Woodlands Park.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by enhancing health-promoting recreational opportunities in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants in the amount of \$250,000 is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1992 Proposition provides \$12 million for competitive grants to develop at-risk youth recreation and service facilities throughout Los Angeles County. The 1992 Proposition also provides that, from that \$12 million, an amount not to exceed \$3 million shall be granted to MRCA for development of facilities for gang prevention and at-risk youth. The recommended award of competitive grant funds to MRCA would satisfy this provision of the 1992 Proposition.

On June 2, 2009, the Board approved the Procedural Guide to govern the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended grant as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. MRCA is the lead agency for the Project.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The Project, which consists of renovation of existing facilities and construction of a new overnight camping facility for vocational training,

recreation, and education of at-risk youth, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15301(d) and 15303(e) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Classes 1(c) and 3(b) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the Project involves renovation of existing facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use and construction of small new facilities or structures.

The proposed Project will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, and scenic trees. Additionally, the proposed Project is not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed Project's records.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Grant Project Agreements were entered into and are administered under authority delegated to the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 1997. The Project Agreements were approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The project will enhance recreational opportunities in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division, and one copy to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", is written over a horizontal line.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:WRO:aa

c: Interim Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors